



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending August 26, 2007

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair week for Field Work: Last weeks' reasonable weather allowed many pastures to recover from the previous weeks of hot weather. Most counties across the state received rain showers for most of the week. For many fields the rain was just what it needed to relieve the drought stress. The rain hindered many farmers from getting some field work complete. Eighteen percent of the fall plowing has been completed. Overall, 3 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included baling straw, fall plowing, spreading lime and manure, hauling water to fields and livestock, repairing equipment, making hay, chopping corn for silage, and harvesting oats, potatoes, tobacco, apples, and peaches.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 26, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	17	69	11

Crops: Ninety-nine percent of Pennsylvania's corn crop has entered the silk stage. This is 1 percentage point lower than the previous year and 3 points higher than the 5-year average. Seventy-three percent of corn has reached the dough stage. This is 14 points lower than this time last year and 1 point lower than the 5-year average. Forty-seven percent of the corn has now entered the dent stage. This is 14 percentage points lower than this time last year and 9 points higher than the 5-year average. Corn conditions show that 54 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Fifty-two percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Ninety-seven percent of the oat crop has been harvested. This is 2 percentage points lower than this time last year and 5 points higher than the 5-year average. Ten percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Currently our potato harvest is 13 percentage points behind the 5-year average and 15 points behind this time last year. Thirty percent of the tobacco crop has been harvested. This is 3 percentage points higher than the previous year and 8 points lower than the 5-year average. Fifty-nine percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 77 percent of the third cutting and 24 percent of the fourth cuttings of alfalfa have been completed. Eighty-two percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Pennsylvania's fruit crop looks very promising this season! The peach harvest is beginning to catch up with the harvest of last year, as 74 percent of the peaches have been harvested. This is right in line with both the previous year and the 5-year average. Thirty percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 3 points lower than the

previous year and 4 points higher than the 5-year average. Ninety-three percent of the apples are in good or excellent condition.

Livestock: The rain that was received around the state has really improved both crop and pasture condition. Producers are hoping that the rain showers will continue into the upcoming week. Twenty-eight percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 27%, poor 22%, fair 23%, good 24%, and excellent 4%.

U.S. as of August 19, 2007: Temperatures remained warmer than average across most of the country during the week, with areas of extreme heat in the Central Great Plains, Delta, Southeast, Tennessee Valley, and central Intermountain region. Cooler than average temperatures were evident along the Pacific Coastland, and in the northern tier States from North Dakota eastward to Maine. Heavy rainfall also drenched the northern Corn Belt with 17 inches falling in some areas of southeast Minnesota, southwest Wisconsin, and northeast Iowa causing localized flooding.

Corn: Eighty-one percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 43 percent was at or beyond the dent stage, and 6 percent had matured. All stages were ahead of the normal pace. The dough and dent stages were 11 and 12 points ahead of the 5-year average, respectively. The crop rapidly advanced with nearly one-fifth of the acreage entering the dent stage during the week. Meanwhile, maturing, which had not begun in all States yet, was 1 point ahead of normal.

Soybeans: Ninety-two percent of acreage was setting pods, while 2 percent was dropping leaves. Acreage setting pods equaled last year's pace, and advanced 4 points beyond the 5-year average. Indiana's and Ohio's soybeans were setting pods ahead of normal by 10 or more points. Due to continued hot weather in Tennessee, soybean acreage was dropping leaves ahead of the normal pace with 14 percent dropping leaves.

Small Grains: Eighty percent of barley acreage had been harvested, 10 points ahead of last year and 26 points ahead of average. With one-fifth of the crop harvested during the week, progress remained well ahead of the average pace. Oat producers had reaped 93 percent of their crop by week's end, slightly behind last year but ahead of normal by 7 points. Harvest was most active in Pennsylvania and North Dakota but was finished or winding down elsewhere.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 26, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 26, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	87	59	71	3	4.21	5	16.54	-1.00	48	2,198	240	3,508
Franklin	92	56	69	2	2.15	5	17.55	-2.70	61	2,081	231	3,413
Meadville	89	55	69	3	3.60	5	14.96	-5.03	61	2,114	418	3,433
Mercer	91	56	70	3	3.19	5	19.85	0.76	59	2,047	217	3,371
Springboro	89	55	68	-2	2.34	5	17.13	-0.38	71	1,822	-124	3,115
Warren	91	54	67	0	2.87	5	20.35	0.26	61	1,870	70	3,177
North Central												
Bradford Region	84	52	64	2	2.79	5	18.82	-1.34	68	1,474	149	2,727
Emporium	90	56	66	2	2.23	4	22.98	2.62	60	1,935	453	3,257
Kane	88	53	65	3	2.79	6	22.68	2.27	62	1,484	180	2,740
Laporte	86	52	63	-5	2.11	5	15.99	-2.64	64	1,772	-78	3,053
Lock Haven	93	56	67	-1	2.54	4	12.90	-5.48	46	2,314	360	3,648
Port Allegany	88	54	64	1	2.58	5	17.66	-1.37	59	1,619	160	2,888
Renovo	92	56	67	-2	3.24	5	18.54	0.16	53	2,186	232	3,519
Ridgway	88	54	67	3	2.55	5	18.28	-2.08	66	1,687	205	2,981
Stevenson Dam	92	56	67	3	2.83	6	16.66	-3.70	53	2,016	534	3,335
Towanda	94	53	67	0	2.33	5	13.87	-1.57	59	1,925	60	3,212
Wellsboro	86	52	63	-2	3.58	7	20.05	4.52	65	1,635	229	2,899
Williamsport	93	56	68	-3	2.61	4	14.88	-3.35	51	2,484	331	3,842
Northeast												
Hawley	91	52	64	-3	1.23	3	20.41	2.82	55	1,794	197	3,092
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	93	54	68	-1	1.63	3	18.00	0.84	51	2,227	179	3,564
Susquehanna	91	51	66	2	1.29	4	21.21	2.39	60	1,879	352	3,175
West Central												
Butler	91	56	70	3	5.23	5	17.82	-1.38	57	2,078	163	3,408
New Castle	95	56	72	5	3.27	4	17.60	0.20	55	2,270	354	3,611
Slippery Rock	91	58	71	6	3.78	4	20.41	1.75	58	2,184	453	3,520
Central												
Altoona/Blair	88	56	66	-3	4.39	7	17.87	1.14	58	2,191	143	3,523
DuBois	87	54	67	0	2.72	5	18.35	-0.92	65	1,971	188	3,290
Lewistown	94	57	67	-4	2.90	5	19.00	0.86	54	2,346	104	3,690
Middletown	93	58	69	-5	2.71	4	18.19	0.49	45	2,791	265	4,160
Prince Gallitzi	91	54	66	1	3.90	6	19.42	-2.09	52	1,857	212	3,162
Selinsgrove	93	56	67	-3	2.76	4	14.33	-4.08	47	2,306	204	3,641
State College	90	56	66	-3	2.68	5	15.94	-0.89	53	2,338	310	3,676
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	94	56	69	-3	3.05	4	21.05	1.86	58	2,460	143	3,810
Lehighton	87	54	65	-7	5.05	5	23.84	4.79	61	2,190	-51	3,528
Matamoras	91	54	65	-5	1.65	5	22.22	2.76	56	1,965	-65	3,287
Mt_Pocono	88	50	63	-1	2.14	6	20.85	0.33	67	1,808	402	3,098
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	92	59	74	6	3.00	5	19.30	1.39	58	2,560	506	3,918
Derry	90	56	71	3	3.93	6	28.69	10.09	55	2,124	185	3,454
Myersdale	90	55	70	2	3.51	5	18.28	-2.06	60	1,670	-228	2,955
Mount Pleasant	91	59	73	7	3.76	5	23.16	2.05	59	2,102	375	3,443
Pittsburgh Intl	92	58	74	5	2.77	4	17.82	0.91	51	2,481	333	3,834
Connellsville	95	57	76	7	3.03	5	21.62	1.64	66	2,389	204	3,742
Waynesburg	93	59	75	7	4.44	5	19.64	1.05	59	2,230	239	3,576
South Central												
Biglerville	93	57	67	-6	3.13	6	16.14	-0.29	47	2,577	109	3,939
Everett	87	56	65	-5	3.19	6	18.07	1.75	59	1,870	-160	3,192
Hanover	93	58	68	-5	2.54	4	15.45	-0.98	46	2,530	62	3,883
Harrisburg_AP	94	58	69	-5	2.37	4	15.10	-2.60	40	2,710	177	4,082
South Mountain	89	55	65	-5	3.20	5	18.57	1.84	50	2,038	-3	3,362
York	94	57	69	-4	3.71	5	19.41	1.36	46	2,462	6	3,822
Southeast												
Green Lane	92	56	68	-3	2.70	4	22.26	3.56	55	2,514	304	3,865
Hamburg	94	56	68	-2	3.71	5	21.69	-0.01	52	2,569	541	3,926
West_Chester	92	56	68	-5	3.25	5	23.93	3.64	47	2,460	15	3,807
Lancaster	92	57	68	-4	3.45	4	20.89	1.86	44	2,534	202	3,893
Neshaminy Falls	93	55	67	-5	3.22	4	27.93	6.16	54	2,356	47	3,693
New Holland	93	55	67	-5	3.03	5	21.78	2.75	51	2,608	276	3,960
Philadelphia	94	57	70	-5	2.09	3	22.17	3.58	45	2,965	303	4,347
Philadelphia NE	95	57	71	-5	3.18	3	22.50	3.91	54	2,928	266	4,310
Reading	94	57	69	-3	4.28	4	20.84	0.66	54	2,661	367	4,023
Valley Forge Na	93	55	68	-6	2.99	4	22.90	3.49	59	2,512	-80	3,871
Willow Grove	92	54	68	-4	2.49	5	21.90	0.13	60	2,625	316	3,982

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney - Adams County received some beneficial rainfall this week. Around 3.5 inches of rain fell in most areas from Sunday through Thursday. At times it would downpour but other times it was a nice steady rain. Most rainfall was absorbed and not much runoff since the soil was so dry. Daytime temperatures were cooler this week in 60's and nighttime temperatures in the low 50's. Most days were cloudy and overcast and not much sunshine.

Corn silage is still being harvested but was a little slower this week due to the rainfall. Soybeans are growing again with recent rainfall. Hay and pasture fields are greening up since recent rainfall and once the sun comes out the producers will benefit with some re-growth for forage crops. Barley and wheat will be seeded shortly and the recent rainfall will help with the seed germination.

Apples and peaches continue doing good. Early apples are being harvested with most being a week ahead of normal harvest. Size of apples has been affected some but most seem to be doing ok. The recent rain will benefit the sizes of the apples. Peaches are still being harvested with good flavor due to high sugar content because of the dry weather this summer. Sizes of the peaches are a little smaller but still marketable. Some sweet corn is being harvested where sporadic rainfall was received but most sweet corn this year has dried up. Pumpkins are suffering some from drought and just stayed the same size and hopefully the recent rains will help to get some size to them.

Overall, the rainfall will help the soil moisture level but was about a month too late in most areas of the county for the corn crop to reap the benefits.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Finally, a week with showers of 2+ inches and cooler weather has helped the pastures and hay recover from the dry hot summer. Silage harvest has come to a halt. Soybeans have benefited the most by the change in the weather. Cool wet weather prevented almost all field work. Late peaches and apples are sizing up much better at this time. Fruit crop still looks like an excellent year.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - The rain just wouldn't stop this week. Over 6" of rain fall in the past week. All harvesting is on hold until the ground dries out. Pastures are starting to improve. The potato growers are getting their equipment ready for harvest. The Atlantic potatoes are ready for harvest and shipping.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - We got some good rain showers during the week. I collected 3.2 inches in my gauge. Hay fields are looking better.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle - It rained off and on this week. This will keep the grass growing but dampened the attendance at the big Crawford County Fair. Pastures have returned to probably above average conditions for this time of year with all the rains. Producers are anxious to get back in the fields and start on hay again.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - Recent rainfalls have significantly improved soil moisture conditions that should improve fourth cutting yields and set the stage for final cuttings later this season. Many areas have planted oats as an emergency forage crop and this crop is responding to moisture conditions. Growers are reporting 40 to 50% of normal forage harvest. Corn crop is rapidly maturing and silage harvest should begin shortly. Soybeans are continuing to develop.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner - The rains for the past week were great! We had over 3 inches or so and really helped the crops. Most farmers mowed off their 2nd cutting of hay. The third and some of the fourth crop looks promising. Overall most farmers will have about 80% of in yield compared to last year. Many farmers have been supplementing pastures with winter feed.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - The weather was very humid & rainy 3 1/2 inches total for week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr - Some parts of the County got heavy rains and winds. Trees were uprooted about 8 miles east of my house, but it did not rain enough at my place to make you come inside. Most areas have received rain in the last several days, so crops and pastures are doing good.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill, CCA Lancaster Ext - Silage harvest will hit full swing this week. Yields vary across the county from excellent to significantly below average.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Rainfall in the amount of nearly three inches during the beginning of the week was a blessing, and what a difference a good soaking rain will make. The alfalfa and timothy have begun to show signs of growth and the pastures have greened up very nice. For the corn that was not affected too severely by the heat and dry conditions, it is showing signs of favorable kernel fill. The soybeans are short in stalk length, but are showing excellent pod fill with many pods having three beans. Not many field activities were undertaken; however, many are preparing for the fall seeding and harvest.

UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker - We had over 2" of rain this past week-the most at one time since corn was planted. This will help soybeans and add some to the corn crop. This has been one of the driest years in over 40 years. Some of our land has not yet had 6" since planting in early May. Our local weather station was 10" below normal prior to the rain this past week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - A very wet week with most of the county receiving several inches of rain. For some of the early-planted corn and soybeans, the rain came too late to be of much value. Pastures and hay are responding to the moisture and the late summer weeks should provide good yields. Because of the almost daily rain, no hay could be harvested this week.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 26, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	18	21	18
Corn, silk	99	100	96
Corn, dough	73	87	74
Corn, dent	47	61	38
Corn, mature	9	16	8
Corn silage, harvested	15	29	17
Oats, harvested	97	99	92
Tobacco, harvested	30	27	38
Potatoes, harvested	10	25	23
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	77	85	73
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	24	10	16
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	82	86	71
Peaches, harvested	74	74	74
Apples, harvested	30	33	26

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 26, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	14	12	20	43	11
Soybeans	13	10	25	35	17
Quality of hay made	8	17	16	44	15
Pasture	27	22	23	24	4
Apples	0	0	7	50	43

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